

Atty. Docket No.: 500.38950X00
Serial No.: 09/648,484

12. (Amended) A method of settling accounts to a processing fee expended on processes related to recycling a used product, comprising:

transmitting, from a recycling certificate sales system through a network to a recycling certificate management system, sales information including identifying information of the recycling product and a processing fee of the recycling product, the recycling certificate sales system managing a recycling certificate having the identifying information of the recycling product, and the recycling certificate identifying information of the recycling product and the processing fee which represents a purchase of recycling services, and the recycling certificate management system managing a processing state of the recycling product;

reading, by a receiving organization server managed by a receiving organization, the identifying information from the recycling certificate when the receiving organization receives the recycling product from a discharger;

transmitting, from the receiving organization server through the network to the recycling certificate management system, receiving information indicating that the receiving organization received the recycling product containing the read identifying information;

recording the receiving information in a database in the recycling certificate management system;

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reading the identifying information from the recycling certificate by a product distributing organization server managed by a product distributing organization when the product distributing organization carrying the recycling product to the recycling organization receives the recycling product from the receiving organization;

transmitting, from the product distributing organization to the recycling certificate management system, take-over information indicating that the product distributing organization received the recycling product containing the read identifying information;

calculating a receiving fee accrued at the receiving organization by the recycling certificate management system when the recycling certificate management system receives the take-over information and the receiving information is recorded in the database;

recording the take-over information in the database;

reading the identifying information from the recycling certificate by the recycling organization server managed by the recycling organization when the recycling organization receives the recycling product from the product distributing organization;

transmitting, from the recycling organization server to the recycling certificate management system, incoming product information indicating that the recycling organization receives the recycling product containing the read identifying information; and

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calculating a product distributing fee for the product distributing organization by the recycling certificate management system when the recycling certificate management system receives the incoming product information and the take-over information is recorded in the database.

13. (Amended) The method according to claim 12, further comprising extracting information related to the recycling product when a predetermined time period is over for recycling the recycling product.

14. (Amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein the extracting information related to the recycling product is carried out using the receiving information and a first received date contained in the take-over information.

15. (Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the extracting information of the recycling product carries out an extraction of the information related to the recycling product when the recycling certificate management system does not receive the take-over information even though the predetermined time period is over a first receiving date of the recycling product, contained in the receiving information.

16. (Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the extracting information of the recycling product carries out an extraction of the information of the

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recycling product when the recycling certificate management system does not receive the incoming product information even though the predetermined time period is over a second received date of the recycling product contained in the take-over information.

17. (Amended) A recycling certificate system connected to a plurality of recycling processing computers through a network, for calculating a processing fee expended on processes related to recycling a used product, comprising:

a communication unit, connected to the network, for receiving information indicating that a second recycling organization manages the recycling product moving from a first recycling processing organization to a second recycling processing organization for processing the recycling product following the first recycling processing organization and the second recycling processing organization managing a second recycling processing computer from a first recycling processing computer, among the plurality of recycling processing computers receiving the recycling product containing identifying information for identifying the recycling product;

a storage unit storing a computer program; and

a processing unit, connected to the communication unit and the storage unit, for calculating a recycling fee based on the computer program for a processing carried out by the first and second recycling processing organizations in accordance with a recycling certificate having the identifying information and a processing

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content which represents a purchase of recycling services, and for processing information of settling accounts relating to the calculated recycling fee.

18. (Amended) The system according to claim 17, wherein the communication unit is connected, through the network, with a sales organization server managed by a sales organization for selling the recycling certificate storing the identifying information attached to the recycling product, to receive the identifying information and fee information indicating a recycling processing fee of the recycling product transmitted from the sales organization server, the processing unit calculating the recycling fee based on the fee information.

20. (Amended) The system according to claim 17, wherein the processing unit notifies a discharger through the communication unit such that the recycling product is not recycled when a predetermined time period is over for processing the recycling product.

21. (Amended) The system according to claim 20, wherein the processing unit carries out the notification based on a receiving date contained in information indicating the receiving date of the recycling product.

22. (Amended) The system according to claim 21, wherein the processing unit carries out the notification when the processing unit does not receive

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information as indicated from a third processing server managed by a third processing organization that carries out a process following a second processing organization, even though the predetermined time period is over the receiving date contained in the information.

23. (Amended) A method of calculating a processing fee expended on processes related to recycling a used product using a recycling certificate management system connected with a plurality of recycling processing computers through a network, the recycling certificate management system managing a processing state of the recycling product, the method comprising:

receiving information indicating that a second recycling organization manages the recycling product moving from a first recycling processing organization to a second recycling processing organization for processing the recycling product following the first recycling processing organization and the second recycling processing organization managing a second recycling processing computer from a first recycling processing computer, among the plurality of recycling processing computers receiving the recycling product containing identifying information for identifying the recycling product;

calculating a recycling fee for a processing carried out by the first and second recycling processing organizations based on a recycle certificate having the identifying information and a processing content which represents a purchase of recycling services, and

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processing information of settling accounts related to the calculated recycling fee.

24. (Amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein the recycling certificate system is connected, through the network, to a sales organization server managed by a sales organization for selling the recycle certificate storing the identifying information attached to the recycling product, wherein the recycling certificate system receives the identifying information transmitted from the sales organization server and fee information indicating the recycling processing fee of the recycling product, wherein the calculating of the recycling fee is carried out based on the fee information.

25. (Amended) The method according to claim 23, further comprising extracting information related to the recycling product when a predetermined time period is over for processing the recycling product.

27. (Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein the extracting information extracts information related to the recycling product using a receiving date contained in the information indicating the receiving date of the recycling product.

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28. (Amended) The method according to claim 27, wherein the extracting information related to the recycling product is carried out when a processing unit does not receive information as indicated from a third processing server managed by a third processing organization that carries out a process following a second processing organization, even though the predetermined time period is over the receiving date contained in the information.